

What is claimed is:

1. A system for allowing a user to eliminate a fixed information band portion of a television broadcast, comprising:

means for receiving a television broadcast image, said image having a display area divided into a fixed information band display portion along an edge thereof, and a main program display portion;

means for receiving a user command to eliminate said fixed information band display portion from a television display representation of said broadcast image;

means, responsive to said user command, for re-scaling the main program display portion of said television broadcast image in size to occupy substantially the entire display area of said television broadcast image and for providing said re-scaled main program display portion as an output for display on a television screen.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a bottom edge of the television broadcast image; and

said re-scaling means is adapted to scale the main program display portion vertically in top-down fashion in response to said user command.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a top edge of the television broadcast image; and

said re-scaling means is adapted to scale the main program display portion vertically in bottom-up fashion in response to said user command.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a left edge of the television broadcast image; and

said re-scaling means is adapted to scale the main program display portion horizontally in right-to-left fashion in response to said user command.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a right edge of the television broadcast image; and

said re-scaling means is adapted to scale the main program display portion horizontally in left-to-right fashion in response to said user command.

6. A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

user input means for indicating a location of said fixed information band display portion in said television broadcast image and for controlling said re-scaling means to scale the main program display portion in accordance with said location.

7. A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

user input means for indicating a size of said fixed information band display portion in said television broadcast image and for controlling said re-scaling means to scale the main program display portion in accordance with said size.

8. A method of eliminating a fixed information band portion of a television broadcast, comprising:

receiving a television broadcast image, said image having a display area divided into a fixed information band display portion along an edge thereof, and a main program display portion;

receiving a user command to eliminate said fixed information band display portion from a television display representation of said broadcast image;

in response to said user command, re-scaling the main program display portion of said television broadcast image in size to occupy substantially the entire display area of said television broadcast image; and

providing said re-scaled main program display portion for display on a television screen.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a bottom edge of the television broadcast image; and

the main program display portion is re-scaled vertically in top-down fashion.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a top edge of the television broadcast image; and

the main program display portion is re-scaled vertically in bottom-up fashion.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a left edge of the television broadcast image; and

the main program display portion is re-scaled horizontally in right-to-left fashion in response to said user command.

12. A method according to claim 8, wherein:

said fixed information band display portion occupies a rectangular area along a right edge of the television broadcast image; and

the main program display portion is re-scaled horizontally in left-to-right fashion in response to said user command.

13. A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

indicating a location of said fixed information band display portion in said television broadcast image and controlling re-scaling of the main program display portion in accordance with said location.

14. A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

indicating a size of said fixed information band display portion in said television broadcast image and controlling re-scaling of the main program display portion in accordance with said size.

15. A system for eliminating a fixed information band portion of a television broadcast, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a television broadcast, said receiver producing a raw pixel stream representative of said broadcast, said raw pixel stream representing a display image having a display area divided into a fixed information band display portion along an edge of said display area and a main program display portion;

a user input device; and

a video stretch device, responsive to said user input device and operating on said raw pixel stream to produce an output pixel stream wherein said main program display portion is expanded to occupy substantially all of a display area of a display image represented by the output pixel stream.